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Diese Tatsache dürfte beweisen, dass die Lehrer vom Schüler unbewusst einen Gesamteindruck bezeugt haben. Dieser Gesamteindruck äussert sich im arithmetischen Mittel aus den Noten: Deutsch mündlich, und Deutsch schriftlich. Die Fleissnote verdient ihren berechtigten Platz nur, sofern sie wirklich Fleissnote genannt werden darf. Der Zensur im Betragen (durch Worte ausgedrückt) legt man auch bei den heutigen Zeugnissen grossen Wert bei, da die Art der Erteilung keiner Kritik ruft. Eine Rubrik Bemerkungen im Zeugnis soll nicht nur tadelnde, sondern alle auffälligen Erscheinungen, die nicht in den anderen Rubriken begründet sind, enthalten. (Angabe besonderer Anlagen für bestimmte Fächer u. s. f.) Das vorgeschlagene neue Zeugnis stellt das ganze Kind als beachtenswert in den Mittelpunkt und nicht nur dessen Leistungen im Schulwissen. Es will dem Zeugnisträger grössere Gerechtigkeit, dem Elternhaus mehr Wahrheit und dem Staate bessere Dienste bieten. Dem Zeugnisaussteller bleibt das drückende Gefühl fern, das sich heute beim Unterschreiben der Zeugnisse einstellt.

Goethe and the English Language.

Roy Temple House, Norman, Oklahoma.

The young Goethe was one of the most enthusiastic and industrious language students we have any record of. During his youth in Frankfort, his father discovered a teacher who guaranteed to put any intelligent student on his feet in English in four weeks. Goethe, his father and his sister, all three traveled the royal road under the care of this remarkable guide, doing little during the month except practice day and night what they learned in class. All three, the poet reports, advanced rapidly and were held up to the other members of the class as models.

While recovering from the illness that brought him home from the University of Leipzig, the poet fell in with a young Englishman who was in Frankfort to perfect his German. Goethe and his sister practiced conversation with this improvised instructor,—whose zeal for the progress of his pupils was probably increased by the fact that he had fallen madly in love with one of them,—and Goethe boasts that he caught from this training not only the most intimate peculiarities of intonation, but many subtle traits of English character. He always speaks of his linguistic proficiency, as for that matter of his attainments in other directions, with the most absolute freedom from false modesty, and often with an objectivity that is admirable.

One of the most interesting records of his vigorous youth is that of his invention of a sort of romance in the then popular form of letters, written to each other by a family of brothers who are scattered to the four corners of Europe, and each of whom writes in the language with which he happens to be occupied. The eldest, who is traveling, writes German. A brother who is studying theology, employs Latin and Greek, in both of which languages Goethe had acquired considerable proficiency. One, who is in business in Marseilles, writes French; a musically inclined brother prefers Italian, another couches all his contributions in German Yiddish, and the one who has established himself in Hamburg keeps his English in training. This polyglot exercise greatly pleased the elder Goethe, and must have been very useful. All through these years the young man kept up a constant correspondence with English-speaking acquaintances, and came to write the language with great facility.

In the "*Italienische Reise*",—during the stay in Rome in 1787,—we even find the poet teaching Shakespeare's tongue to a young lady from Milan, and after a method of his own. He chose for the material of the first lesson a newspaper account of how a lady fell into the water, but was fortunately saved before life was extinct. The matter was complicated by doubts as to whether her immersion had been accidental or intended, also as to which of her admirers, the favored or the slighted one, was responsible for her extraction. Goethe first translated all the nouns, fixed them in the mind of his fair pupil, and led her to observe what position they occupied in their respective sentences. Then he took up the other parts of speech in regular order, until the lady was able to put the thrilling story into Italian without assistance. If the interesting series of lessons had not ended in a love affair, the experience might have resulted in a valuable contribution to the literature of language teaching.

Since with Goethe every acquisition worked toward literary expression, we are not surprised to find him trying his hand at more ambitious work than mere letter-writing in English,—even though his epistolary style sometimes betrays the foreigner, as is evidenced by the following fragment from a letter to his sister: "And then a darkness comes down my soul; a darkness as thick as fogs in the October are. . . . In like a situation of my soul I make English verses. . . . In that moment thou shalt have of them. . . ." He even rises to the height of poetry, showing however when he does so a curious lack of feeling for the little niceties of pronunciation. He writes, for example, "A Song over the unconfidence toward myself":

But hah! a cruel enemy
Destroys all that bless,
In moments of melancholy
Flies all my happiness.

or still worse:

She cannot love a peevish boy,
 She with her godlike face.
 O could I, friend, that thought destroy,
 It leads the golden days.

Goethe has a veritable mania for testing "die Fähigkeit des Deutschen zur Wiedergabe jeglichen schriftstellerischen Idioms", and his fragments of translation from the English are legion. Herder, in his Strassburg University days, had fired him with an enthusiasm for Shakespeare that never left him, and several of his translations from the great Elizabethan have been preserved. He admired Byron heartily,—as indeed did continental Europe in general in his day,—and we have remarkably literal and accurate, yet genuinely poetical versions of parts of "Don Juan" and "Manfred". He tried his hand at "English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers", but desisted because he found himself unable to untangle the endless chain of local allusions. He made a translation of Goldsmith's "Deserted Village", which has been lost, but he reports that his work had little value because he undertook to carry the original over too literally. In 1811 he translated Richard Payne Knight's journal of his travels through Sicily; and now and then we find him busying himself enthusiastically with some second-rate author who would have been absolutely forgotten generations ago by his own countrymen if this foreigner had not chosen to immortalize him.

He made occasional blunders in his translations, sometimes egregious ones. When he undertakes the passage at the end of Act II, Scene II of "Manfred":

But I can act even what I most abhor
 And champion human fears. . . .

the phrase "and champion human fears" seems to puzzle him, and he tamely substitutes:

Der Erde Schrecken ruf' ich auf.

The clause in "Hamlet":

He is fat and short of breath,

becomes in Goethe's rendering:

Er ist fett, lasst ihn zu Atem kommen,

a misunderstanding which seems utterly inexplicable in a man who knew English as well as Goethe proves elsewhere that he does.

It is easier to see how the line from Hamlet's appeal to the ghost of his father:

Thou comest in such a questionable shape,

should have become

Du kommst in so einer würdigen Gestalt,

for the line is a difficult one, and Creizenach notes the fact that Wieland

and Schröder both used "ehrwürdig" as a translation for "questionable". That editor finds, however, in a note to Eschenburg's revision of Wieland's edition, the comment: "Das englische Beywort 'questionable' bezeichnet eigentlich einen, der bereitwillig ist, sich Fragen vorlegen zu lassen"; which, put thus in the present tense, was scarcely true when Eschenburg wrote it, but accounts excellently for this particular use of the word by Shakespeare.

In a quotation from the "Quarterly Review" of December, 1820, the old poet renders the phrase "occasional simple and manly eloquence" by "eine der Gelegenheit angemessene Beredtsamkeit"; and in the same discussion he assumes the concessive phrase "is indeed affecting" to carry the usual force of "indeed", and translates it by "wahrhaft herzergreifend"; which examples go to show that he never became absolutely sure of his English.

Yet this knowledge of the sister tongue was very useful, to himself and to others, even though, as was the case with his attainments in so many other directions, it was largely intuition and not always reliable from the scholar's standpoint. And we are ready to agree that his practice was perfectly consistent with his theory, when we find him maintaining, in the "Maximen und Reflexionen":

Wer fremde Sprachen nicht kennt, weiss nichts von seiner eigenen,
and praying the gods, in the "Venezianische Epigramme:"

Gebet mir ferner dazu Sprachen, die alten und neuen,
Dass ich der Völker Gewerb' und ihre Geschichten vernehme.

Berichte und Notizen.

I. Der vierte Internationale Kongress für Schulhygiene zu Buffalo.

Von **John L. Lübben**, Masten Park High School, Buffalo.

Der in den Tagen vom 25. bis 30. August in Buffalo, N. Y., abgehaltene 4. Internationale Kongress für Schulhygiene war in mehr als einer Hinsicht bahnbrechend und eigenartig. Vor allem inbezug auf die Delegatenzahl. Denn bei diesem Kongresse waren über 2,000 Delegaten aus allen Ecken und Enden der Alten und der Neuen Welt anwesend. Von diesen liessen sich über 1,500 Delegaten offiziell einschreiben und werden in den zu Anfang des kommenden Jahres zu veröffentlichenden Verhandlungen als registriert angeführt werden. Dann war es das erste Mal in der Geschichte dieser Weltkongresse, dass Süd-Amerika Vertretung geschickt hatte, — war doch fast jede Republik unseres Nachbar-Kontinentes, einige derselben sehr zahlreich, mit Delegaten vertreten.